



Series: Power From On High.

Title: The Gospel Divides

Lesson: 72

Text: Acts 13:42-52

Date: April 28, 2024

Does the gospel bring peace?

Matthew 10:34–36 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 “For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household.

Acts 13:42–52 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life,

behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.’ ”

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:42–52 42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

Why did Paul’s sermon stir such enthusiasm?

2 Corinthians 10:10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.”

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel ***not in cleverness of speech***, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 And when I came to you, brethren, I did **not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom**, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Desiring to hear more of God's Word untainted by human cleverness is a sign the Holy Spirit is working in your life.

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“to continue in the grace of God”

Does a profession of faith validate true conversion?

Acts 8:13 Even Simon himself **believed**; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

20 But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

John 2:23–25 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many ***believed*** in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

The divine side of persevering faith

1 Peter 1:3–7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are ***protected by the power of God through faith*** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

What about those who professed faith but apostatized?

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

“ _____ ”

Scripture warns believers about “ _____ ”

John 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “***IF*** you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

John 8:51 “Truly, truly, I say to you, ***IF*** anyone keeps My word he will never see death.”

1 John 2:3–6 By this we know that we have come to know Him, ***IF*** we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

Hebrews 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, ***IF*** we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45 **But** when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting (Imp. tense) the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

To reject the gospel is to make oneself unable and _____ to be saved.

47 “For) so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.’ ”

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Those who do not believe in election have to reverse the verbs to justify their belief.

“As many as had **believed** were **appointed** to eternal life”

Luke puts the verb “appointed” before “believed”

“As many as had been **appointed** to eternal life **believed**”



1. _____ responsibility

46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and **judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life**, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

2. Sovereign _____

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been **appointed to eternal life** believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.

Matthew 10:14 “Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Implication

There comes a point because of stubborn resistance that we should _____ and leave them to God.

Discussion Guide

1. Reread Paul’s sermon in Acts 13:16-41 and list the main elements of his sermon. Based on what we learned today, what was it that made his sermon so attractive?
2. How would you answer someone who rejects the doctrine of election based on their sense of fairness? Should we speak first of man’s responsibility before we speak of sovereign election?
3. What do we learn from Paul and Barnabas’ response to the opposition they faced? When and how would we apply that today?
4. What was most meaningful for you in today’s sermon. Why?

ANSWERS: if clauses, unworthy, Appointed, Believed, Man’s, election, walk away